

The idea is to create new valves in the lab while the pregnancy progresses and have them ready to implant in a baby with heart defects after it is born.

The Swiss experiment follows recent success growing bladders and blood vessels and suggests people may one day be able to grow their own replacement heart parts—in some cases, before they're born.

It's one of several sci-fi tissue engineering advances that could lead to homegrown heart valves for infants and adults that are more durable and effective than artificial or cadaver valves.

"This may open a whole new therapy concept to the treatment of congenital heart defects," said Dr. Simon Hoerstrup, a University of Zurich scientist who led the work, which was presented yesterday at an American Heart Association conference.

Also at the meeting, Japanese researchers said they had grown new heart valves in rabbits using cells from the animals' own tissue. It is the first time replacement heart valves have been created in this manner, said lead author Dr. Kyoko Hayashida.

One percent of all newborns, or more than one million babies born world-wide each year, have heart problems. These kill more babies in the U.S. in the first year of life than any other birth defect, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Heart-valve defects can be detected with ultrasound tests at about 20 weeks of pregnancy. At least one-third of afflicted infants have problems that could be treated with replacement valves, Dr. Hoerstrup said.

Conventional procedures to fix faulty heart valves all have drawbacks. Artificial valves are prone to blood clots and patients must take anticoagulating drugs for life. Valves from human cadavers or animals can deteriorate, requiring repeated open-heart surgeries to replace them, Dr. Hijazi said. That's especially true in children, because these valves don't grow along with the body. Valves made from the patient's own cells are living tissue and might be able to grow with the patient, said Dr. Hayashida, a scientist at the National Cardiovascular Center Research Institute in Osaka.

The Swiss procedure has another advantage: using cells the fetus sheds in amniotic fluid avoids controversy because it doesn't involve destroying embryos to get stem cells.

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007, which is being introduced today by Senators AKAKA and INOUE in the Senate and by Congressman ABERCROMBIE and me in the House.

The central purpose of the bill is to extend the federal policy of self-determination and self-governance provided to the other indigenous peoples of the United States—American Indians and Alaskan Natives—to Native Hawaiians. In addition, the bill establishes an office in the Department of the Interior to focus on Native Hawaiian issues and establishes a federal interagency working group.

The United States Congress has a long history of treating Native Hawaiians as an indige-

nous people. The special relationship Native Hawaiians have with the Federal Government is evidenced by the more than 160 statutes Congress has passed over the years to address the needs of the Native Hawaiian people. Nonetheless, the *Rice v. Cayetano* Supreme Court decision highlighted the need to clarify the authority of Congress to deal with Hawaii's indigenous people on a government-to-government basis under the U.S. Constitution's Indian Commerce Clause.

I attended the *Rice v. Cayetano* hearing at the Supreme Court while I was serving as Hawaii's lieutenant governor. I wanted to hear first hand where the Justices were on the question of whether the Hawaiians are indigenous people. Clearly, there was a lack of understanding on this point, which resulted in an unfavorable decision in the case.

It is important to note that the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, also known as the Akaka bill, enjoys wide support in the State of Hawaii. As demonstrated by the introduction of these bills, the entire Congressional delegation supports the bill. Hawaii's Republican governor also supports the bill, as do the majority of elected officials in the State.

Today is the 114th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii. It is fitting that we come together on this day to pledge to restore to the Native Hawaiian people the inherent right of self-determination our Nation has granted to the other indigenous peoples of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN VANDERBURGH FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, it is commonly said that public service is not the path to financial wealth. Perhaps that is true, but, as we know, it is an enriching experience in more valuable ways. The rewards for helping people can be found in successfully meeting challenges and in the gratitude of the people helped. Staying true to the demands of public service and remaining committed to the tasks at hand require a strong sense of duty and responsibility.

On January 19, 2007, a faithful public servant with such virtues will leave his post after 35 years. Mr. John Vanderburgh, the Social Security Administration's Disability Programs coordinator for the Guam Federal Disability Office, will retire. The decision to do so was not easy to make. "My job is wonderful," he says. "I get to work directly with the public in a most personal and meaningful way. I also have the privilege of working and negotiating with professional and high-level private and public agencies, and the medical community in general, to try to provide a level of service comparable to that found anywhere stateside."

After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Mr. Vanderburgh launched his public service career with the Social Security Administration in 1974, starting as a claims representative in San Francisco and rising through the ranks to operations supervisor and district manager, with a stint in between as staff assistant for the Civic Center. In 1988, John moved to the

San Francisco Regional Office's Disability Quality Branch, to focus on the disability program. In 1995, John came to Guam to head the Federal Disability Office.

The Guam Federal Disability Office, FDO, serves the Pacific territories—from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas to American Samoa, an expansive and culturally and linguistically diversified area. Yet, during his tenure, John has maintained the FDO as a full-service Federal disability determination center, processing some 1,000 disability claims annually.

Although John will be missed, we join his staff in wishing him well. And on behalf of the people of Guam, we commend him for his service to our community, we congratulate him on his retirement, and we thank him for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to my leave of absence, I am submitting for the RECORD how I would have voted if I had been present earlier today, in addition to comments that I request also be entered into the record.

I would have voted as follows on today's recorded votes: rollcall No. 27—Yea—H. Con. Res. 31—Honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts to increase equal employment opportunities in the military, rollcall No. 28—Yea—H.R. 434—Short Term Extension of the Small Business Administration, rollcall No. 29—Nay—Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5, rollcall No. 30—Nay—Adoption of the Rule for H.R. 5, rollcall No. 31—Yea—Republican Motion to Recommit for H.R. 5, and rollcall No. 32—Nay—Final Passage of H.R. 5.

H.R. 5 which is being considered without regular order or Republican input, falls far short of their original proposal to cut all student loan interest rates in half, increase Pell grants and increase tax deductions for parents of college students. This legislation is not part of a comprehensive approach which provides accountability and transparency for escalating tuition costs. A temporary interest rate decrease for college graduates is only part of the solution. The reduced interest rate does not apply to PLUS loans, consolidation loans, or unsubsidized Stafford loans.

Rollcall No. 33—Yea—H. Res. 58—To Honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

HONORING THE MARE ISLAND ORIGINAL 21ERS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 31, which honors the 21 African-American workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard